

**Freedman, Andrew**

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**From:** Freedman, Andrew  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 7, 2019 9:51 PM  
**To:** Susan Buchanan - NOAA Federal  
**Cc:** Christopher Vaccaro - NOAA Federal; Scott Smullen - NOAA Federal; louis.uccellini@noaa.gov; Itkowitz, Colby; Samenow, Jason  
**Subject:** Re: TIME SENSITIVE inquiry from WaPo

Thanks so much. Feel better, get some zzz's.

Best,  
-Andrew

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**From:** Susan Buchanan - NOAA Federal <susan.buchanan@noaa.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 7, 2019 9:49 PM  
**To:** Freedman, Andrew <Andrew.Freedman@washpost.com>  
**Cc:** Christopher Vaccaro - NOAA Federal <christopher.vaccaro@noaa.gov>; Scott Smullen - NOAA Federal <scott.smullen@noaa.gov>; louis.uccellini@noaa.gov <louis.uccellini@noaa.gov>; Itkowitz, Colby <Colby.Itkowitz@washpost.com>; Samenow, Jason <Jason.Samenow@washpost.com>  
**Subject:** Re: TIME SENSITIVE inquiry from WaPo

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER**

Hi Andrew - here is the answer to your question. Please use attribution as written below, per our phone agreement:

NWS leadership sent this guidance to field staff so they (and the entire agency) could maintain operational focus on Dorian and other severe weather hazards without distraction. -NWS Spokesperson

On Sat, Sep 7, 2019 at 7:49 PM Freedman, Andrew <[Andrew.Freedman@washpost.com](mailto:Andrew.Freedman@washpost.com)> wrote:

Hi NWS press folks and Director Uccellini,

This is for a Washington Post story **\*\*running imminently online and in print on Sunday.\*\***

On Sept. 1 and again on Sept. 4, NWS personnel received a guidance not to provide opinions on national level social media posts in the media and to stick with NHC forecasts if questions arise about the posts.

Staff understood this to be a response to President Trump's Alabama comments and that they were essentially being told not to contradict the president.

Can you respond to this and explain the reason behind sending these dual directives?

Please send any responses to Colby and myself. I'm cc'ing Jason as well who has been working on this story.

Thank you and all the best,  
-Andrew